



**Testimony of Carol Scully**  
**Director of Advocacy, The Arc of Connecticut, Inc.**  
**LCO No. 4717 S.B 1080 An Act Concerning Transportation Services For Persons**  
**With Intellectual And Developmental Disabilities**

**February 28, 2023**

Members of the Transportation Committee: Chair Senator Cohen, Co-Chair Representative Lemar, Vice Chair Senator Lopes, Vice Chair Representative Berger-Girvalo, Ranking Member Senator Hwang, Ranking Member Representative Kennedy, Representative Blumenthal, Representative Bronko, Representative Carney, Senator Cabrera, Representative Chaleski, Representative Concepcion, Representative Conley, Representative Dancho, Representative DeCaprio, Representative Denning, Representative Farrar, Senator Fazio, Senator Gaston, Representative Khanna, Representative Labriola, Representative McCarthy Vahey, Representative Marra, Senator Martin, Representative Michel, Representative Morrin, Senator Needleman, Representative O’Dea, Senator Osten, Representative Reyes, Representative Rosario, Representative Simms, Representative Smith, Representative Steinberg, Representative Turco, Representative Zawistowski:

The Arc Connecticut is the oldest and the largest community-based organization advocating for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. We work tirelessly to uphold our vision that every individual and family living with I/DD has access to the information, advocacy, and skills they need to support their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

We are a chapter of The Arc of The United States, which has 675 chapters in 49 states and over 5,000 service locations. Nationwide, we have approximately 7,000 board members, 124,000 staff, 46,000 volunteers and collectively we serve more than 1 million people with I/DD and their family members.

In Connecticut, our 14 Arc local chapters deliver over \$100 million in jobs, supports and services to thousands of people in 162 communities. Nonprofit providers including the Arcs are the largest provider of supports and services for people with I/DD and their families in the state, providing about 96% of the services.

The Arc of Connecticut supports S.B. 1080 to increase transportation services a via fare-free model for persons with intellectual developmental disabilities who receive services from the Department of Developmental Services. Transportation services would include fare-free public bus and reduced fare for intrastate rail service.

Persons with disabilities have limited access to transportation, especially in areas that comprise a transportation desert – northeastern Connecticut, southwestern Connecticut and other areas not on a regular bus route. Lack of transportation impacts the ability of persons with disabilities to access jobs.

This bill will enhance employment opportunities for and to potentially expand free or low-cost transportation options.

The Arc of Connecticut urges legislators to pass this important bill that would increase access to transportation and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

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